

STATE CONVENTION.
Colored People in Council.
ZION CHURCH ROCKED AS THE
CRADLE OF THE FREE.
Reconstruction Begun.
LIBERTY AND UNION, NOW AND
FOREVER.

The State Convention.

The colored people of the State have been holding a Convention in this city. Delegates have been present from all parts of the State. Resolutions of importance have been presented, and discussed with calmness and candor. It is the first Convention of the kind ever assembled here, and it would not be true to say that its business has been transacted with that parliamentary precision which characterizes deliberative assemblies; but the speeches which have been made by the members upon the different resolutions, have all been discreet, practical, and temperate with moderation. Representative men have been here, and sentiments have been uttered far in advance of anything emanating from a South Carolina Convention before. And the world will recognize the proceedings as the grandest exhibition of progress, ideas as which the State has ever known.

The evening sessions have been crowded with spectators, and great enthusiasm prevailed. Zion Church seems likely to become as identified with the history of the reorganized State of South Carolina, as Faneuil Hall is with the history of Massachusetts. Eloquent and patriotic speeches have abounded. Wisdom and statesmanship prevailed. The prosperity and future perpetuity of the nation has been considered as identified with the interest of the people. The "negro code" of the Legislature has been repudiated, and equality before the law demanded.

A memorial to Congress has been prepared, which asks that full justice may be done them. A petition to the State Legislature, an Address to the People of the State, and a Declaration of Rights. These documents are worthy the consideration of every lover of his country. They will command the respect of civilized people everywhere, and win the admiration of liberty-loving Americans. They were passed by the Convention too late for insertion, but will appear next week.

Henry Ward Beecher.

The man whose name heads this article has uttered many noble words for freedom, at a time when it required a brave man so to do. We have always admired his independence as we now regret his eraction. He preached a discourse some weeks since at Plymouth Church, New York, not exactly in harmony with some of his previous declarations. The Copperhead papers of the North praised him for it, and the secession journals of the South declared that he had seen the errors of his way and was sensible at last. Mr. Beecher saw no harm in being complimented by rebels and traitors, but his friends did and were grieved at it.

He recently made another speech at the Cooper Institute, New York, in which he said that the Southern States are almost as ready to support the Federal Government as the Northern States. It seems impossible for Mr. Beecher not to have known better. In Charleston to-day the proportion of Secessionists is greater than when the Secession ordinance was first passed. And the proportion will continue to increase so long as men of Mr. Beecher's stamp continue to make overtures to rebels.

Again, he says: "We must not ask the Southerners to give up their convictions simply because the fortunes of war have gone against them." Their convictions are that they had a right to secede, but we must not ask them to give up their convictions. We ask that Mr. Beecher and the Secessionists gave up their convictions upon this subject, because the judgment of God has gone against them.

A missionary, laboring among the colored people here, upon reading the recent speech we have alluded to, gave us his opinion that it was time for Mr. Beecher to come forward for prayers, and there are thousands of his colored friends here who would pray heartily for him, "While the lamp of life holds out to burn, etc."

Good News.—The Christian churches of the North have been the best allies of the Government during the late slaveholders' rebellion, and they are now her best allies in the righteous reconstruction. We see by last week's New York "Christian Advocate" that the Missionary Society of the Methodist Church, at their annual session on the 6th instant, fully alive to the religious wants of this section of the country, have generously appropriated three hundred thousand dollars to be expended in the Southern States the ensuing year. Twenty thousand dollars is to be used to educate promising colored young men in the South for the ministry. This is a noble example of generous aid, which we believe other Christian denominations at the North will follow, thereby giving the best kind of evidence to the world that they have been sincere in their devotion to the cause of the oppressed.

The Children.—By request of General Saxon, the parents and children of the freedmen of this city assembled at Zion Church on Thursday afternoon. The Church was well filled. General Saxon addressed the meeting upon the importance of education, and urged the parents to send their children to the public schools.

Mr. Ferguson, from England, made a short address, followed by Mr. Tomlinson. The children enlivened the occasion by singing several popular songs. Benediction by Robert Duncan.

Dr. B. A. Boesman, as will be seen by advertisement, has commenced the practice of medicine in this city. It is unnecessary to say more than in addition to the fact that he has served as surgeon in the army, he is also a regular graduate of the Maine Medical College.

The following report of the Business Committee was read by the Chairman:

Whereas knowledge is power, and educated and intelligent people can neither be controlled nor subdued, therefore,

Resolved That we will insist upon the establishment of good schools for the education of our children throughout the land; and that to this end we will contribute of our means, and will earnestly and persistently forward every means calculated to elevate the rank and position of an enlightened Christian people.

Resolved That we solemnly urge the guardians and guardians of the young and rising generation, by the sad recollection of our forefathers, and by the bright and inspiring hopes in the future, to that school is at once established in every neighborhood; and when so established, to go to it that every child of proper age is kept regular attendance at the same.

Resolved That we appropriate with heart overflowing with gratitude the noble and self-sacrificing spirit manifested by the various philanthropic and Christian associations of the North in providing teachers and establishing schools among us, and that we can best testify gratitude by heartily cooperating with them in their great work of love and humanity.

Mr. DeLarge moved that the consideration of these resolutions be postponed until 12 o'clock to-morrow, which was so ordered.

Mr. Baxter moved that all resolutions brought before the house should be read twice before the final vote on their passage was taken. Upon the adoption, quite a spirited debate sprung up, which was participated in by Messrs. R. C. DeLarge, of Charleston, J. J. Wright, of Beaufort, J. A. Chesnut, of Columbia, and Mr. Ransier, of Beaufort.

Mr. DeLarge again, on the part of the Business Committee, presented a second set of resolutions on education, which received no readings, and, after some debate on motion they were adopted.

It was moved by Mr. A. J. Ransier and carried, that a committee of five be appointed to arrange a permanent organization. The following delegates were appointed to compose that committee: Messrs. Ransier, White, Ransier, Wright and Rice.

It was moved by Mr. DeLarge that the front seats on the right and left of the President be appropriated to the visiting clergymen—Cathedral. On motion of the same, Capt. C. S. B. Wall, of the U. S. Army, was invited to a seat upon the floor.

The report of the committee on the permanent organization was received and adopted. It was then moved that a committee of five be appointed to conduct the election of permanent officers for the Convention.

The following gentlemen were appointed to compose that committee, viz.: Messrs. DeLarge, Desverney, Poinsett, Miller and Ransier. The committee proceeded to the discharge of their duty, and the election resulted as follows: For President, Thos. M. Holmes; Vice President, Judge Mills, J. J. Wright, W. M. Simons; for secretaries, J. C. Desverney, A. J. Ransier and E. B. Rainey.

A Committee of Finance was appointed, consisting of Messrs. Poinsett, Bonham and Dart. It was moved and carried, by Maj. M. R. DeLarge of the U. S. Army, to be seated on the floor, which courtesy he acknowledged in a few words, and appropriate respects.

On motion, the following numbers were appointed a committee on ethics, viz.: Messrs. Nash, Chapman, Bradley, Edwards and J. J. Wright. On motion, the general business of the Convention was appointed, consisting of Messrs. DeLarge, Wright, Gurnett, Nash, Baxter, McPherson and Davis.

J. Price and J. Freeman were elected doorkeepers; and John Brown, sergeant-at-arms.

On motion, the Convention adjourned, to meet at 10 o'clock to-morrow (Friday) morning.

TUESDAY.

The Convention met, according to adjournment, called in order by the President, and opened with prayer by the Rev. E. J. Adams. The minutes of yesterday were read and confirmed.

On motion, Major Delaney and Captain Wall were elected honorary members of the Convention.

Mr. DeLarge, from the Committee on Credentials, reported the arrival of delegates from Edisto and James Island. Their credentials were examined, and found correct, and their names entered on the rolls.

The Convention, on motion, then adjourned to meet again on Wednesday morning at 9 o'clock.

THE EVENING ENTERTAINMENT.

The regular session of the Convention, which according to the rules adopted, should have convened at 5 o'clock this evening, kindly gave place to a very pleasant and agreeable social and intellectual entertainment. The affair was gotten up to assist in defraying the expenses of the Convention and tickets of admission were sold at 25 cents. The session-hall, including the galleries, were filled up or overflowed at an early hour, and well supplied as a measure of health. The chairs of those who were not for contention and skillful talk-discoursed the moving in body of sweet sounds, to which all hearts awarded the tribute of willing response.

The exercises of the evening were begun by calling on the platform, Judge Cowley, of Lowell, Mass. He is a master of considerate, refined, and witty remarks. He spoke of the Convention held in St. Luke's Church on the 5th of June last, and of the resolutions then passed, and the provisional State Committee then appointed. He also gave an account of his interview with President Johnson, on his return to the North last June. The President assured him that neither General Gilmore, General Hatch, nor General Gurney had any authority to restrain the people from holding political conventions, provided that they were the cause of no disturbance among the people, and that all restrictions on political meetings should be at once removed.

He was gratified to meet this Convention of the colored people of South Carolina, and hoped that similar Conventions would be held from time to time till the colored men had secured all their rights, civil and political, which were enjoyed by white men. He hoped that the proceedings would be characterized by such soberity, good sense, and moderation as would secure for the colored men the respect and admiration of the white people of the South, as well as of the North. He urged the importance of conciliating the good will of the dominant race, and of avoiding everything calculated to stir up unkind feelings between the two races.

Mr. J. J. Wright of Beaufort reported the following rules for the government of the Convention:

Rev. E. J. Adams was then announced, and made an admirable speech in his way. He is a pleasant speaker, and wins over the attention of his audience as he progresses. His reasoning is sound and logical, and he is not disposed to undervalue the lighter graces of popularity.

He has cultivated mind, which he has improved by travel and observation. He has mingled with the native African upon his native soil, and thinks he is not in all cases the untutored savage that some people take him for. He never tries to speak until he has something to say, and the moment he is done he takes his seat. This is a secret of oratory which should be better understood and appreciated among the great body of our public speakers.

George Moore was then introduced, and spoke of the delicate position in which he was placed as a South Carolinian, as a speaker before a convention of colored citizens. He had no hand in freeing the slaves, nor since a convention of his own fellow-citizens had passed an ordinance of emancipation, and declared the slaves free, he saw no inconsistency in addressing them as freemen. Slavery, according to the constituted law of the State, is now dead

for all. The principles which you are advocating are embodied in the Declaration of Independence, "that all men are created equal." Every freeman is entitled to certain rights, which all men should recognize. Heartily sympathizing with you in your noble work, I hope the time will soon come when you can enjoy the rights of freemen.

Mr. Ransier moved that three additional adjoint committees be appointed, which was so ordered.

Messrs. Samuel King, Abrahim Williams, and McAlpin were severally appointed under that resolution.

Mr. DeLarge, from the Business Committee, reported a resolution introduced by Mr. Poinsett, and, on motion of Mr. Ransier, it was made the special order for eight o'clock this evening.

The vote was subsequently reconsidered, however, upon motion of Mr. Poinsett, at the suggestion of several gentlemen.

It was then made the special order for noon to-morrow (10 o'clock).

The Committee on Credentials reported the arrival of delegates from Sumter, viz., Hattie Brooks, Grant Singletary, and Marcus Sanders. Their credentials were found correct and their names enrolled.

Upon motion, the Convention took a recess, in order to give place to the exercises of the evening entertainment.

EVENING ENTERTAINMENT.

The regular business of the afternoon was suspended, and the Convention resolved itself into a social, convivial mass-meeting to honor the speakers which had been appointed to make addresses. The house was densely crowded, and the streets and order and confusion prevailed.

The first speaker which occupied the stand was Dr. Rev. J. Gibbs. He made a refined, sprightly speech, and was universally applauded.

He took a moderate, common sense view upon the present state of the country as bearing upon the prospects and interests of the freedom. He advised a broad, enlarged knowledge as the power that now most needs.

John Chapman of Columbia was the next speaker. He dwelt on the subject of labor, a topic of most interest just at this time. He handled his subject well, and struck the broad truth with words well-chosen and fitting.

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R. H. C. Coombs, editor of the "Massachusetts Spy," was called out, and responded in a speech of clear power and convincing effect. He has a military way of making his arguments, and bringing them like an exhortation against the weaker portion of the forces of his opponent. He has a fine command of language and seems to be at home in the higher realm of popular oratory. He has words to express his ideas, and not to scatter them, and to scatter his ideas to scatter. He then pronounced over the flowers, and those who hear him often will find his discourses very forcible and very effective. The speaker who followed him was Fred. S. Ferguson, of the Edisto. The question of what to do to reward merit was discussed.

Mr. Allen Collins, the editor of the "Leader," was then introduced and deeply laboring under the effects of a severe late indisposition, yet he was enabled to tell us that house is in a pleasing and attractive condition for some fifteen minutes. He commenced with a speech to suggest Longwood as a suitable name for the new State of South Carolina. He was soon received with unanimous approbation, and struck the broad truth with words well-chosen and fitting.

He spoke of a call from the Chamberlain, R. C. DeLarge, of the Charleston delegation, to speak on the subject of the election of a president, and in a speech which he delivered at the same time, he spoke of the importance of the election, and the responsibility of the electors. He spoke of the importance of the election, and the responsibility of the electors.

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Captain Ketchum said that the general sentiments so often expressed by the Generals in defense of human rights, seem to have been adopted by the country at large. The elections at the North gave proof of this, and happy to greet you in Convention, and believe that the time will come when all your rights will be established firm as rock.

The Committee reported several other resolutions. Several good speeches were made, but no important business transacted.

EVENING ENTERTAINMENT.

After the regular session of the day, the evening skirmish by the sharpshooters is looked forward to with peculiar interest. This pyrotechnical display of the torpedoes of poetry and sky-rockets of oratory sped along their fiery track, and the whizz and buzz and frequent explosion made the grand, gloomy, and peculiarly "large" predominant. The speakers were greeted by the usual applause and eager auditory. The hall and galleries were crowded to suffocation, which will seat fifty-two thousand persons.

The ball was opened by Mr. Edwin Coombs, of Massachusetts. He read and recited a leading editorial in one of the city papers on the subject of the honesty, industry, and general capabilities of self-government as exhibited by the freedmen under the new regime. Mr. Coombs thought the article in question rather "foggy," abounding more in topographical and editorial blunder than in sound sense and logical conclusions. The speaker handled the article without gesticulation, and proved the utter fallacy of the popular idea that Editors either do, or should know everything.

Sergeant T. W. Long, of the first S. C. colored troops, was next called on the stand, and made a Davy Crockett, *ad extrema*, speech that had considerable point and power. He proposed to take the field off Massachusetts and put it upon South Carolina. He was so zealous so render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and he would not shrink from a single engagement with the glorious 5th Massachusetts Regiment. But the first S. C. color guard, Regiments had preceded in point of organization. She was first at the cross, and last at the grave. And when the arms of this was shall be written up, it will be found that she has made her mark not only upon the bloody field of battle, but upon the illumined scroll of the soul.

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